

**MAY REVISION PROPOSALS  
FOR THE JUDICIAL BRANCH  
MAY 15, 2003**

The Governor's May Revision leaves the Governor's proposed budget for the judicial branch for fiscal year 2003-2004 largely unchanged. The proposed budget continues to contain: (1) unallocated reductions of \$116 million for the trial courts and \$17.7 million for the state appellate courts and Judicial Council and (2) various policy initiatives that would reduce operating costs and raise revenues for the judicial branch.

The May Revised Budget proposes a total of \$17.552 million in additional funding for the judicial branch for fiscal year 2003-04 to cover mandatory costs that have been identified by the trial courts; a loan of \$80 million in projected revenue from the State Court Facilities Construction Fund to the General Fund; reversal of a funding shift proposed in the Governor's Budget; and the distribution of the one-time General Fund unallocated reductions included in the Governor's Budget. The specifics of these proposed changes are as follows:

- An increase of \$5.478 million from the General Fund for actual and projected workers' compensation program cost increases incurred by the trial courts.
- An increase of \$5.518 million General Fund for increased trial court retirement costs (in addition to a \$19.984 million increase for retirement that was included in the Governor's Budget.)
- \$3.556 million General Fund is proposed to fund increased security costs related to Sheriff's Office employee salary and benefit cost adjustments for trial court security.
- Funding of \$3 million is included to reflect projected court costs for the service of process for specified protective orders as provided by AB 2030 (Chapter 1009, Statutes of 2002).
- An \$80 million loan from the State Court Facilities Construction Fund based on revenues that are projected to be collected over the next year. This fund, established January 1, 2003, is to be used to fund the acquisition, rehabilitation, and construction of court facilities, as well as administration costs of the state court facilities program. The Governor proposed repayment of the loan from the Construction Fund with interest. Because this loan will sweep all of the projected revenues in this fund other than the first year funding needed for the initial staff support cost, it will be necessary for the state to repay this loan in early FY 2004-05 to avoid delay in the transfer of trial court facilities from the county to the state.
- A reversal of the original proposal to replace \$300 million in General Fund that supports ongoing court security costs with sales tax revenues as part of the Governor's Proposed Local Realignment proposal. This action restores General Fund support to cover these costs.

- Distribution of \$17.7 million in one-time unallocated General Fund reductions to the budgets for the State appellate courts and Judicial Council:
  - Reduce the operating budgets of the Supreme Court, California Judicial Center Library, Courts of Appeal, Administrative Office of the Courts, and the Habeas Corpus Resource Center by approximately 3%.
  - Reduce the Court Appointed Counsel Program within the Supreme Court and the Courts of Appeal by such means as a delay in reinstating the former payment guidelines for court appointed counsel (e.g., the page rate for reading the record which was reduced to 60 pages/hour for compensation instead of 50 pages/hour, etc.) that were reduced in the budget crisis 10 years ago.
  - Reduce funding for local assistance as follows:
    - 10% reduction to the Court Appointed Special Advocate Program (\$192,000)
    - 10% reduction to the Model Self-Help Program (\$83,000)
    - 10% reduction to the Family Law Information Centers (\$30,000)
    - One-year discontinuance of the California drug Court Projects (\$1 million); and
    - An approximate 29% reduction to the Equal Access Fund (\$2.751 million).
- Distribution of \$116 million in one-time unallocated General Fund reductions to the trial courts budget as follows:
  - \$87 million reduction to the trial courts operating budgets. This will result in an across the board 5% unallocated reduction to each of the 58 trial courts and will be achieved in such a way as to have the least impact on each court's operations, programs, and services provided to the public.
  - \$10 million reduction in expenditures as a result of salary savings related to current judicial vacancies.
  - \$1.9 million one-time reduction in expenditures as a result of savings related to the assigned judges program.
  - \$5.1 million reduction of the General Fund transfer to the Judicial Efficiency and Modernization Fund. This reduction has a cumulative impact on trial courts, and will result in reduced funding for, or elimination of, pilot programs, training, conference, contracts, and technology system implementation.
  - Reversion of \$12 million from the Trial Court Improvement Fund to the General Fund. This reversion of funds results in the elimination of, or reduced funding for, pilot programs, studies, training, contracts, and technology projects.